

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims pending in the present application are numbered 1-22. Claims 1 and 6 presently stand rejected. Claims 2-5 and 7-12 presently stand objected to. The Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 13-22 are presently allowed. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice and claim 1 has been amended in an earnest effort to expedite a timely allowance of the instant application. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application as amended. The Applicants request this amendment after final action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the July 28, 2005 Final Action, claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pioppo et al, US Patent No. 6,194,935 (hereinafter Pioppo). In the July 28, 2005 Final Action, claims 2-5 and 7-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as conditionally allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite a timely allowance, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to embody the limitations included in conditionally allowed claim 2. The Applicant understands claims 1 should be allowable as amended in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the Final Action of July 28, 2005. The Applicant further understands that remaining dependent claims 3-12, which depend on independent claim 1, should be allowable if the independent claim is deemed allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application as amended. The Applicant requests this Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. If, for any reason, the Examiner determines this case is not in condition for allowance, the Applicant requests the remarks be entered to put the case in better condition for appeal.

Serial No.: 10/717,228
Filing Date: November 19, 2003

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Examiner: Lun, An T.
Art Unit: 2816

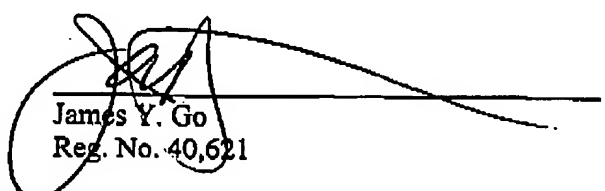
If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9-13-05


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